

Dear Human Services Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to OPPOSE H.B. 6618 - "An Act Concerning Medical Assistance for Certain Persons Receiving Abortion Care and Related Services in Connecticut".

This bill would require the use of taxpayer funds to pay for abortions for low-income women from states that have more restrictive abortion laws than Connecticut. It should never be the responsibility of Connecticut taxpayers to fund the taking of innocent human life at any stage. However, extending the taxpayer funding of abortions to women from out-of-state would be a blatant misuse of the trust that Connecticut voters have placed in you as elected officials to prudently and ethically distribute our tax dollars.

Besides the ethical concern associated with using taxpayer money to pay for a procedure that a large number of Connecticut residents consider to be murder, there are other complications associated with trying to apply this funding to out-of-state residents. The bill mentions "abortion related services", but does not define exactly what this includes. Would women receive money for travel and lodging expenses or for additional medical services needed in the case of complications? If a woman receives funding to travel to Connecticut for an abortion but changes her mind, would she be pressured to go through with the procedure? Would out-of-state women be put at risk if they are not able to receive follow-up care from the abortion provider once they return home? What type of legal rights would an out-of-state woman have to seek compensation if there were serious complications? Do the answers to these questions show that the bill is truly in the best interests of the women it claims to help as well as in the best interests of the Connecticut taxpayers?

I sincerely hope that after careful deliberation you will vote **vote "No" on HB6618** and any other bills that would expand abortion access or the use of taxpayer funds for abortion in Connecticut.